submitted its Report to the Planning Commission in July, 1993. A full Planning Commission meeting chaired by the Prime Minister in March, 1997 accepted the recommendations of the Expert Group with minor modifications. Since then the parameters for estimation of poverty at National and State level are being taken using the Expert Group's recommendations.

(d) The main parameter for estimating the poverty line is the per capita consumption expenditure, which meets the average per capita daily calorie requirement of 2400 kcal in rural areas and 2100 kcal in urban areas along with a minimum non-food expenditure on vital requirements such as clothing, shelter and transport etc.

Mid-Term appraisal of Tenth Five Year Plan

784. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether multilateral agencies are being appointed to advise on the mid-term appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the reasons for associating foreign agencies; and

(c) the measures proposed to safeguard this privatisation and that the cause of Western Corporate giants are not indirectly pushed by these agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission had announced the formation of Consultative Groups for the limited purpose of obtaining views and perceptions regarding the effectiveness of Plan progammes and policies from Non-Government observers in the process of the Mid Term Appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan. Some individuals working with the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and International Consultancy firms in India were also included in those Consultative Groups which deal with areas in which these agencies are actively involved in supporting Central Government or State Government projects.

(c) Does not arise in view of the dissolution of Consultative Groups with effect from 1st October, 2004.

Connectivity between Delhi and Uttaranchal

785. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have been urged by Chief Minister